

Kohler Illumination

Invented by the German scientist, August Kohler (1866-1948)

Purpose: to achieve proper alignment of the illumination system for brightfield, phase and DIC microscopy.

- Make sure polarizer is out of light path
- use low power (x10) objective
- Focus on a specimen (or a piece of lens tissue)
- Decrease the size of the field iris so that you can see its edges
- Bring the edges of the field iris into focus by raising or lowering the condenser focusing knob. Both the specimen and the iris should be in focus
- Center the image of the field iris using the condenser-centering knobs (usually facing you on the condenser)
- Open the centered and focused field iris so the edges lie just beyond the field of view.